

### Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-16 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 6, 7, 12 and 13 being independent. Claims 1, 6, 7, 12 and 13 have been amended herein.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,576,745 (Matsubara). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Each of independent Claims 1, 6, 7, 12 and 13 recites, inter alia, supplying a plurality of different drive energies successively to an ink jet print head and monitoring temperature of the ink jet print head in each supply of the plurality of different drive energies, with the temperature reflecting a temperature change caused by each supplied drive energy.

As discussed previously, the recording apparatus of Matsubara can determine a thermal change state of a mounted thermal head and a driving condition of the mounted head. In Matsubara, a heater is driven for a predetermined time (e.g., 3 seconds), a temperature rise of the ink jet head is measured after another predetermined time (e.g., 0.1 seconds, Fig. 7), and a standard drive pulse width of the ink jet head which corresponds to the temperature rise is read out from a pre-stored table. In Fig. 15, Matsubara depicts a convention double pulse for executing one ejection operation; there is no disclosure in Matsubara of measuring the temperature after each pulse in this double pulse. That is, a temperature change due to supply of the P1 signal is not measured before supplying the P2 signal.

Thus, Matsubara fails to disclose or suggest at least monitoring temperature of an ink jet print head in each supply of a plurality of different drive energies, with a temperature reflecting a temperature change caused by each supplied drive energy, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 6, 7, 12 and 13. Rather, any temperature change measured in Matsubara is caused by two supplied energies, pulses P1 and P2.

Matsubara fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 1, 6, 7, 12 and 13 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.


For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 6, 7, 12 and 13. Dependent Claims 2-5, 8-11 and 14-16 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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